

d) sufficiently curling the perimeter of the polymer container so that the sufficiently soften perimeter forms a curled perimeter without delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another and the sufficiently curled perimeter imparts sufficient resistance to delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the curl subtends at least about 180°.

18. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the barrier layer is sandwich between an inner plastic layer and an inner plastic layer.

19. (NEW) The method according to claim 18, wherein only the perimeter of the polymer container is heated to cause a reduction in orientation and shrinkage in both a vertical direction and a hoop direction so that a wall thickness increases and a level of crystallinity in the polymer container begins to increase.

20. (NEW) The method according to claim 16, wherein the heating step preliminary softens the perimeter of the polymer container so that separation due to stiffness and lack of adhesion, between the barrier layer and the at least one plastic layer, is delayed whereby the softened perimeter forms a curled perimeter without the barrier layer and the at least one plastic layer delaminating from one another; and

the curled perimeter advantageously relaxes a memory of the material in a region of the curled perimeter, as a result of the applied heat, which anneals the plastic material and tends to partially crystallize and render the region amorphous.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of, following sufficient curling of the perimeter of the polymer container, allowing the curled perimeter to sufficiently cool so that a mechanical stiffness of the curled perimeter and interlocking of the barrier layer with the at least one plastic layer of the curled perimeter prevents separation from one another.

22. (NEW) A method of preventing delamination of at least one plastic layer from a barrier layer defining a polymer container having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

a) forming, by a blow molding process, an intermediate article having at least one plastic layer and a barrier layer;